

## HOUSE RESOLUTION 29

By Favors

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Armena Abernathy of Hamilton County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Armena Abernathy of Hamilton County; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Abernathy was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Philadelphia School of Nursing, Armena Abernathy was a proponent of lifelong learning and proceeded to earn a bachelor's degree in social work from the University of Chattanooga and a master's degree in adult education from Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, she served with acumen and alacrity as a registered nurse with Erlanger Hospital before becoming one of the first head nurses in the emergency room of Memorial Hospital, where she served for seventeen years; and

WHEREAS, in addition to this impressive record of service, she worked for the Tennessee Department of Human Services in a dual role as nurse and social worker; and

WHEREAS, upon graduating from nursing school in 1944, she married Edwin C. Abernathy, with whom she shared the joy of two wonderful children, Marcia and the late Armen Abernathy; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Abernathy was an active member of the community, serving as a member of the University Women organization and the Democratic Party, founder of a chapter of the Women's Democratic Party, organizer of the second chapter of the Nurses House in the United States, and president of District 4 of the Tennessee Nurses Association, for which she acted as delegate to the state convention for many years; she also volunteered her expertise

through first aid instruction to Boy Scouts on behalf of the American Red Cross and answering the hot-line for victims of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian throughout her life, Mrs. Abernathy attended Red Bank Presbyterian Church until her health declined; and

WHEREAS, a strong and inspiring community leader, she dedicated her life to improving the lives of others as an advocate of health and social issues and as a role model to nurses throughout Hamilton County; and

WHEREAS, born on April 7, 1921, in Philadelphia, Mrs. Abernathy was preceded in death by her beloved son, Armen, and her parents, hardworking Armenian immigrants who always encouraged their children to seek an education and succeed in every endeavor; and

WHEREAS, her memory will forever be cherished by her daughter, Marcia, who is continuing her mother's tradition of education and service as a member of the nursing faculty at Chattanooga State Community College; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected figure in the lives of many Hamilton County residents, she will be greatly missed by the community she faithfully served throughout her life; and

WHEREAS, Armena Abernathy leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of Armena Abernathy, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mrs. Abernathy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.